



Peterborough Children's
Water Festival



THE EDUCATORS HANDBOOK

Everything you need for a successful and enjoyable trip to the festival at Riverview Park & Zoo.

To help you prepare, you will also receive:

- 💧 **Festival Timeline**
- 💧 **Directions to the Festival**
- 💧 **Festival Itinerary**

<https://pcwf.net/>

Welcome Message

On behalf of the Peterborough Children's Water Festival Steering Committee, welcome to the annual Peterborough Children's Water Festival!

Peterborough region has many natural gifts, including the lakes, rivers, streams, and ponds that nurture life and bring joy to the thousands of residents – human and non-human – that call this place home.

As a community, we all have a responsibility to protect water in all its forms. Our committee is focused on communicating this responsibility to children in grades 2-5, and making every student's visit to the Festival a memorable one. The water festival's activity centres are designed to be hands-on, stimulating, and fun, as well as furthering students' understanding of the water concepts taught through Ontario's curriculum. We are thrilled to be able to offer educational programs in both English and French. Thanks to the hard work of local high school students and teachers, students have the option to participate in a selection of our activity centres in both of Canada's official languages.

We hope that as educators, you find this annual festival an engaging and useful learning opportunity for your students. In our pursuit of adapting to changing learning needs and curriculum, we also hope that you will share your feedback so that this festival remains at the forefront of water education.

I encourage you to visit our website www.pcwf.net which will provide you with additional information about the Festival, and links to other sites related to water education. See you in May!

Yours truly,
Patricia Skopelianos
Chair, Peterborough Children's Water Festival

This Educators Planning Guide is Designed to:

- 💧 Offer you an overview of the Festival and its purpose
- 💧 Help you get organized for a day at the Festival
- 💧 Suggest ways to prepare your students (and volunteer adults) in order to maximize fun and learning!
- 💧 Provide ideas for further study back in the classroom

For more detailed information on our website and links to the activity centres visit:

<https://pcwf.net/educator-information/activity-centres/>

Land Acknowledgement

We respectfully acknowledge that we are located on the treaty and traditional territory of the Michi Saagig Anishnaabeg.

As an organization working in this region and on these lands and waters, we are grateful to the First Peoples for their care, their stewardship, their teachings, and their relations.

We are committed to respecting the sovereignty of First Nations, honouring the Treaties our ancestors signed, and acknowledging the privilege of being here in this beautiful place.



Table of Contents

Introduction

Learning in Context

Water in a global, national, and provincial context.....4

Water in The City and County of Peterborough.....5

Interesting Facts about Water.....6

Water Festival Objectives and Themes.....7

Getting Ready for the Festival.....8

The Day of the Festival (includes Festival Timeline).....9

Directions to the Festival: Riverview Park & Zoo.....10

Festival Itinerary (template).....11

Contacts.....12



Activity Centres and Curriculum Connections can be found for your specific Grade level(s) at <https://pcwf.net/educator-information/activity-centres/>

Learning in Context



Water – globally, nationally and provincially

Water covers 75% of the planet, making up about 75% of a human's body weight. Water is essential for all life on Earth.

Our lives depend on the availability of clean, fresh, water – for growing food, drinking, washing up, travel, and play. All cultures around the world recognize the sanctity of water. Throughout human history, water has turned mill wheels, carried ships, provided steam power, and produced electricity. Today, water is no less essential to the health of our environment, and our economies.

In Ontario, we enjoy what appears to be an abundance of water. The name 'Ontario' comes from the Haudonasonee language and means 'beautiful water' or 'sparkling water'. There are approximately 250,000 lakes in Ontario, and water covers about one-sixth of our province. Nearly 17 percent of Ontario's land area consists of lakes and rivers, many of which form the province's boundaries, like the Great Lakes and the Ottawa River.

Human activities can negatively affect water sources, sometimes with irreversible outcomes. Here in Ontario, residents and businesses draw 58% of their water supply from lakes and rivers (surface water), and 42% from groundwater. As our population uses, and over-uses the water supply, it becomes more contaminated. This can endanger the health of people, plants, and wildlife. To keep water sources clean and plentiful, human behavior must change.

Water in the City and County of Peterborough

Maintaining a clean water supply is key to economic, environmental, and human well-being in the Peterborough region. Here are some characteristics of the Peterborough Region that reinforce the importance of having a community that cares for this valuable resource:

- Peterborough region has 134 lakes
- The City of Peterborough is located in the Otonabee Region Watershed.
- Residents and businesses rely on piped, municipally treated Otonabee River water in urban areas, and groundwater in rural areas (for wells).
- Peterborough region contains many important natural features and habitats for regionally and provincially significant flora and fauna. These features provide essential ecosystem functions that support healthy land, air, and water.
- During the summer, Peterborough region is visited by over 30,000 tourists and cottagers, many of whom come to enjoy the region's natural attractions for outdoor recreation (waterways, forests, caves, and more!).
- Peterborough region's environmental features are a significant resource for recreational and leisure activities, which contribute to the quality of life experienced by area residents. The Trent-Severn Waterway, waterfront parks, conservation areas, and provincial parks offer both passive and active recreational opportunities, like hiking in Petroglyphs Provincial Park and Warsaw Caves Conservation Area, or fishing in the Otonabee River.



Interesting Water Facts:

Did you know?

- 💧 One Litre (L) of oil can contaminate up to 2 million Litres of water!
- 💧 Many homes lose more water from leaky taps and toilets than they use for cooking and drinking!
- 💧 A five-minute shower with a standard shower head uses 100 Litres of water, while the same length of shower with a low flow shower head uses only 35!
- 💧 A single lawn sprinkler can spray 19 L per minute – 50% more water in one hour than a combination of ten toilet flushes, two five-minute showers, two dishwasher loads, and a full load of clothes in a washing machine!
- 💧 Water Consumption usually drops by 18-25% after a water meter is installed!

Learning Objectives & Themes



The primary objectives of the PCWF are to **develop personal awareness** around the importance of water, and **foster respect for the natural environment**. Additionally, this is an opportunity to extend the **Ontario curriculum**, including **transferable skills** whereby students take **what is learned in one situation and apply it to other, new situations**. We that increased individual awareness and respect will contribute to developing a community committed to using natural resources wisely.

The PCWF motivates students to become caretakers of water in their classroom and community. By combining hands-on interactive activities with messages relevant to their daily lives, students 'soak up' knowledge about the properties, uses, connections, and importance of water.

Activity Centres at the Festival are grouped into five theme areas:

Water Conservation

- ◆ Examines using water wisely in our homes, schools, and communities.

Water Attitudes

- ◆ Introduces historical uses of water, compared with present uses.
- ◆ Exploration of common attitudes toward water, and ways to promote an appreciation of water as a natural resource.

Water Technology

- ◆ Looking at the role of water in energy production.
- ◆ Examine how water is treated, stored and distributed

Water Protection

- ◆ Examine the connections between soil, air, water, plants, people, and animals.
- ◆ Consideration of the positive steps we can take to keep water clean.

Water Science

- ◆ Introduction to the physical science of surface water and ground water.
- ◆ Introduction to the hydrological cycle.
- ◆ Exploration of the role of water quality and quantity to aquatic life.

Get Ready For the Festival

Please consider the following when you prepare for the PCWF:

- 💧 **Book your bus in advance** & read through this planning guide! Visit <https://pcwf.net/educator-information/registration-gettingready/> for more information about the festival
- 💧 Divide your class into **groups of five**. Please ensure the groups are no larger than five students for supervision and safety reasons.
- 💧 Assign **1 adult supervisor** to each group of **5 students**. Children with medical needs (administering medication, epilepsy, special physical needs, etc.) should be in a group supervised by the teacher, or by their parent/guardian.
- 💧 Encourage your adult supervisors to read the **Chaperone Information Guide** (available at <https://pcwf.net/educator-information/plan-ahead/>)
- 💧 Adult supervisors should be made aware of any student who cannot be photographed or interviewed, and a **photo release form** should be submitted: (available at <https://pcwf.net/educator-information/plan-ahead/>)
- 💧 Download the map and determine the activities and exhibits that best suit the learning objectives of your class. The **Festival Itinerary Template** can be used to list preferred activities for each group of students. This will assist your adult supervisors in **identifying activities that your students will benefit from visiting**.
- 💧 Copy and distribute copies of the Festival Itinerary template to adult supervisors.
- 💧 Each group should start at a different activity to avoid congestion and maximize learning time.
- 💧 Encourage everyone to bring **litterless lunches and snacks**, including a refillable water bottle!
- 💧 For easy **bus identification**, prepare a sign with your school's name on and ask the school bus driver to display it in the front window of the bus when they pick you up at the end of the Festival day.
- 💧 Please discourage students from getting too close to the riverbank, or feeding waterfowl.



On the Day of the Festival

- ◆ The PCWF is **rain or shine**. Please ensure that everyone is prepared and dressed for the weather. Waterproof footwear is a good idea as the site may be wet.
- ◆ Upon arrival at Riverview Park & Zoo, please have all students **remain on the bus** until you receive instructions to unload.
- ◆ Make sure that everyone knows when and where to meet at the end of the day – the area indicated on the map as “**Meeting Zone**”
- ◆ Ensure each adult supervisor has a Festival Map and their group’s itinerary. We ask each group to start the day at a different activity centre to avoid congestion.
- ◆ The Peterborough Children’s Water Festival puts safety first. If any of your students or adult supervisors have **medical needs** (diabetes, epilepsy, severe allergies, etc.) please report to the First Aid station, located in the registration tent, and submit a written description of the person and the condition(s) before beginning your Festival day.
- ◆ You may stop for lunch and snacks at times that are convenient for you. **Activity centres close for a volunteer lunch between 11:30– 12:00.**
- ◆ Who’s who at the Festival?
 - **Volunteers** – bright yellow pinnies
 - **Festival Organizers** – green t-shirts with the PCWF logo
 - **First Aid Personnel** – red pinnies.Staff and volunteers will be located throughout the site. Should questions or problems arise, do not hesitate to approach them. They are here to help!
- ◆ Remind your students to be **careful around the riverbanks**. The current in the Otonabee River can be strong, especially when water levels are high.
- ◆ Lost and found will be set up at the registration tent. Lost items will be left at the Riverview Park & Zoo Lost and Found.
- ◆ **Activity Centres close at 2 pm.** Head to the Meeting Zone!

Directions to the **Water Festival**



Riverview Park and Zoo is located on Water Street North in Peterborough, Ontario. The Bus entrance to the parking lot is located at the lights at Carnegie Avenue.

Address: 1300 Water St, Peterborough, ON K9J 7G4



Questions?

Let's
Connect!



info@pcwf.net



<https://pcwf.net/>



378 Aylmer Street, PTBO, ON K9H 3V8



[@ptbogreenup](https://www.instagram.com/ptbogreenup)